

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

02/16/2018

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

Not responsive as per agreement with requester

* c. Organizational DUNS:

6170756190000

d. Address:

* Street1:

4241 Old US 27 South

Street2:

Suite 2

* City:

Gaylord

County/Parish:

* State:

MI: Michigan

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

49735-9532

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Mr .

* First Name:

Brad

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Jensen

Suffix:

Title:

Executive Director

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number:

989-448-2293 x18

Fax Number:

* Email:

brad@huronpines.org

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

M: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.306

CFDA Title:

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-OP-OEJ-18-01

* Title:

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Coastal Community Connections: Capitalizing on Partnerships for Advancing Green Infrastructure

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="120,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="7,716.80"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="127,716.80"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email: * Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed:

1.0

Project Title: Coastal Community Connections: Capitalizing on Partnerships for Advancing Green Infrastructure

Project Location: Au Gres, MI 48703; Tawas, MI 48763; East Tawas, MI 48730; Rogers City, MI 49779

Rural Area: Yes

New EJCPS Recipient: Yes

Applicant Information: Huron Pines RC&D Council, 4241 U.S. 27 South, #2, Gaylord, MI 49735, Abigail Ertel

Brief Description of Applicant Organization: Huron Pines has been serving Northeast Michigan for over 40 years. Uniquely positioned in the center of the Great Lakes system, our service area boasts many of the Great Lakes Basin's highest-quality streams surrounded by thousands of acres of forestland. At Huron Pines, it's our passion to protect these astounding natural areas and the wildlife that call this rare place home.

Project Period Dates: 09/01/2018-09/01/2020

Environmental Statute: Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Project Types: Training, public education

List of project partners: City of Au Gres, Au Gres-Sims School District, City of Tawas, City of East Tawas, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, City of Rogers City, Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, Bay Area Community Foundation

Project Abstract: The main objective of this project is to create coastal community collaborations between rural cities on the Lake Huron shoreline in order to conceptualize and materialize water quality improvements. We will address three main barriers holding these communities back from implementing concise water quality solutions: 1) knowledge, 2) funding, 3) collaboration. We will guide and consult the cities of Au Gres, Tawas, East Tawas, and Rogers City to 1) identify environmental degradation issues due to stormwater runoff, 2) challenge those communities to strategically plan and obtain funding sources to protect water quality in the long term, and 3) facilitate the creation of change from within to get these small, often competing, cities to work together for the betterment of the Great Lakes. Our intended outcome is to have each community, through all sectors of the population, 1) engaged and knowledgeable about stormwater and green infrastructure, 2) reduce long-term costs with improved maintenance and better design of water infrastructure, as well as create unique funding structures, including bureaucratic and economic-based incentives, and 3) lead stakeholder conversations with other coastal communities not included in this project.

QAPP?: Yes

1.b) Environmental and Public Health Information of the Underserved Community

1.b.1

The Lake Huron coastline provides rich opportunities for outdoor recreation, tourism, spiritual and artistic inspiration, and economic development. It also provides a home for unique animal and plant species, provides ecosystem services, and serves as a place where people forge connections with the natural landscape. Clean water and healthy coastal ecosystems are vital to quality of life and sense of place for coastal communities such as Au Gres, Tawas City, East Tawas, and Rogers City.

However, the Northeast region of Michigan is demographically challenged. In Iosco and Presque Isle counties the percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree is around 16%, whereas in Arenac it hovers slightly above 11%. This lack of education shows up in the poverty numbers, with the number of residents in the area living in poverty averaging 16.5%, and an unemployment rate twice that of Michigan as a whole. Nevertheless, demographics do not tell the whole story.

Unfortunately, Saginaw Bay is designated by the US Environmental Protection Agency as an Area of Concern due to several Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs), including 1) restriction on fish and wildlife consumption, 2) degradation of benthos, 3) restrictions on dredging, 4) beach closings, 5) degradation of fish and wildlife populations, 6) degradation of aesthetics, 7) eutrophication or undesirable algae, 8) bird or animal deformities or other reproductive problems, and 9) degradation of phyto- or zooplankton populations. Many of these BUIs are directly or indirectly caused by excessive inputs of sediment, nutrients, and bacteria due to stormwater runoff. Tourism and outdoor recreation, healthy fisheries, and wildlife populations, which depend on clean water, are major components of the local economy.

Several beaches along northern Saginaw Bay are regularly closed to recreation due to water quality impairments, which also negatively impact native plants, animals, and coastal habitat. Stormwater problems can stem from the quality and quantity of water, condition and capacity of infrastructure, and location of stormwater outfalls. By preventing precipitation from filtering slowly through the ground, large impervious surfaces like roads, roofs, and parking lots increase runoff rates, increase peak floods, and reduce base flows in streams. Water is forced to flow overland and through concrete storm sewers, where it warms and picks up oils, greases, sand, salt, chemicals, bacteria, and trash before, in many cases, it directly drains into Lake Huron, a tributary stream, or a connecting wetland. Aging and undersized stormwater infrastructure is also an issue, especially as existing systems approach or exceed design lifespans and precipitation patterns change. Addressing water quality issues related to stormwater management issues is an important step in the complex and cumulative process of remediating Beneficial Use Impairments in Saginaw Bay, for the long-term protection of the Lake Huron ecosystem, and ultimately the sustainability of coastal communities.

The Northeast region of Michigan is also facing the emerging issue of PFAS contamination in drinking water, with many residential areas only recently becoming aware of the issue. This is a serious long-term issue that Huron Pines is beginning to get involved with through work with our

partners at Camp Grayling. One long term outcome we would like to address from this work is how we can capitalize on our partnerships to help in the remediation efforts that will take place.

This project looks to allow all community members the opportunity to engage in the planning and decision making process of water quality improvement. To do so we are proposing a scope of work that engages numerous stakeholders in communities along the Lake Huron coastline. Having done on-the-ground work over the years in these communities, Huron Pines realizes that environmental work without community involvement places no ownership or necessity for all sections of the community to care about environmental improvements.

To properly protect the Great Lakes, the whole community must be actively engaged in the process of planning and implementing changes in their communities. In this way, everyone has the opportunity, regardless of disadvantage, to ensure the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards. To this end, we recognize there are barriers to full participation by community members. We intend to dedicate some of this project's time to literature review of already completed community needs assessments to effectively acknowledge those barriers, and to propose solutions to overcome those barriers.

1.b.2

While the need for better stormwater management is a known issue, the coastal communities of Au Gres, Tawas City, East Tawas, and Rogers City have faced barriers limiting progress. This project will explicitly address 1) knowledge barriers, 2) funding barriers and 3) collaboration barriers. Huron Pines will work with these four coastal communities to identify recommendations for future policy, education, and on-the-ground stormwater work, as well as funding and partnership opportunities to achieve the greatest positive impact for the region's shared natural assets. Au Gres, Tawas City, East Tawas, and Rogers City are poised to overcome many of these hurdles and, with monetary support from the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and guidance from Huron Pines, implement the proposed scope of work.

These communities will become leaders for more thoughtful, coordinated, and successful green infrastructure implementation to protect the quality of the Great Lakes all along the Lake Huron coastline. Though this project addresses water quality in coastal communities, ultimately it is about preparing these communities to address the issues on their own and create an inter- and intra-community network through which coastal communities take ownership for the quality of their natural resources.

1.b.3

Many of the communities around the bay are small and rural in nature. The last census numbers put the population of Au Gres at 889 residents, and the cities of Tawas (1,829) and East Tawas (2,808), which are located geographically adjacent to one another, at 4,653 residents combined. Rogers City has a population of 2,695. They have experienced some economic rebound in recent years, but still lag behind other regions in the state of Michigan. The county of Arenac, wherein Au Gres resides, has a median income of \$43,339, which is \$9,153 lower than the median income for Michigan, which itself is \$6,547 under the national median of \$59,039. Iosco county, where Tawas and East Tawas are located, has a median income of \$39,721, which is \$12,771 under the Michigan median, and \$19,318 under the national median. Presque Isle county, whose county seat is Rogers City, has a median income of \$41,570. The percentage of students

receiving free and reduced lunch in these counties ranges from 55.3% in Arenac to 67.4% in Iosco.

1.b.4

According to the EPA's EJSCREEN mapping tool, the localities of Au Gres, Tawas City, East Tawas, and Rogers City all feature higher percentages of exposure to pollutants and in particular, for the importance of this project, waterborne pollutants due to current stormwater management practices. Because of the rural and relatively impoverished state of these communities, there is a struggle to access the resources necessary to implement stormwater Best Management Practices. With high unemployment, loss of talent and skill, and lower education levels, the Northeast region of Michigan faces many challenges. A major asset of this area, however, is an abundance of high quality natural resources. With large tracts of public land, water trails, easy access to Lake Huron, and a seemingly endless supply of lakes and rivers known the world over for their beauty, our communities are on the verge of being discovered. This is a desired, and emphatically needed, boon for our local economies, and the need for stormwater planning and green infrastructure projects is a high priority for communities all along the Lake Huron coastline.

1.b.5

Northeast Michigan, known as the "Sunrise Side", is often overlooked for business investment, tourism, and environmental remediation work. With the successful implementation of this work, Northeast Michigan, and the small coastal communities along Lake Huron, will begin to implement an environmental ethic into their Sunrise identity. When these communities unite under a common goal economic, time, and recreation investment increases, as is seen, for example, in Northwest Michigan.

Though these communities are at a slight disadvantage, they have already started to take steps to address certain issues. In 2015, Au Gres and Rogers City were two of four cities selected for Michigan SeaGrant's Sustainable Small Harbors Program. The goal of this effort is to identify barriers preventing small harbors from becoming economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable, and equipping coastal community leaders with the tools and knowledge to assess and strengthen their own waterfront assets. These coastal cities are not powerless, but are interested in steps to mitigate water quality degradation.

1.c) Organization's Historical and Sustained Connection to Underserved Community

1.c.1

Through our ongoing Northern Saginaw Bay Restoration Initiative, we have completed more than \$2 million of on-the-ground and community engagement work since 2010, including several road/stream crossing improvements and landowner cost-share projects in the Au Gres River Watershed. Much of this work is driven by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, through which the EPA has granted monies to Huron Pines to complete this work.

In 2014 Huron Pines coordinated a community stakeholder meeting in Au Gres, where participants from different sectors of the community were asked to identify what they perceived to be natural resource assets and issues in their area. Invasive species and stormwater, particularly related to beach closures, were identified as top needs by the community of Au Gres. Consequently, Huron Pines worked with agency, educational, and community partners to kick off an ongoing effort to manage invasive phragmites at Big Charity Island, a project we continue to lead. Through that stakeholder meeting and subsequent meetings and discussion with the City

of Au Gres, the community decided to work with Huron Pines to develop a formal stormwater assessment as a tool to help take on future on-the-ground and policy stormwater work.

The Tawas and East Tawas communities recognized that economic viability relies on tourism. However, that reliance was hampered by the encroachment of invasive species and water quality issues, and have turned to Huron Pines for guidance. We have also worked with “non-traditional” conservation partners by helping organizations like the local hospital tackle invasive plant species and replace them with native plant species.

In Rogers City we have spent years doing on-the-ground work removing invasive species and improving watershed quality, which included mapping of invasive species and stream barriers. In 2014 Huron Pines held a collaborative meeting with Presque Isle county leaders to map their natural resource assets and what issues they feel the community is facing. Some action items were proposed from this meeting, but in 2017 Rogers City expressed their desire to reinvigorate their partnership with Huron Pines. Another community conversation was held that pointed to the need for work that we were doing in other Coastal communities.

Huron Pines has worked to conserve the natural environment of Northeast Michigan for 45 years, and all of these communities are inside of our service area. Our commitment to these areas runs deeper than these relatively new projects, and that connection is something we pride ourselves on.

1.c.2

Huron Pines has a strong track record of pulling together multiple stakeholders to successfully design, fund, and implement complex projects. Our service area encompasses over 4 million acres and 12 counties. The geographic scope of the region provides access to an abundance of natural resources and a variety of recreational and quality of life benefits. It also presents challenges in working across political boundaries, bringing groups together, and developing a unified sense of place and identity. Outreach to the community and stakeholders is essential for the proposed scope of work: building the capacity of our partners as well as working to identify common goals and outcomes.

Huron Pines has developed a strong relationship with the Au Gres-Sims School District through ongoing partnerships to inventory rare species and monitor invasive phragmites at Big Charity Island, and through student-led water quality monitoring trips in the Au Gres River Watershed. The school district is also in the process of acquiring a native plant greenhouse and is interested in growing plants for use in future restoration projects including green infrastructure projects in the City of Au Gres. Huron Pines will work with the school district to educate students on links between stormwater management and water quality issues, such as local beach closures, and assist with selection of appropriate native plant species. By involving students with the stormwater planning and design process, we provide valuable place-based education opportunities for local students while contributing usefully to a real-world project.

With momentum building for real and positive change in Au Gres, Huron Pines recently oversaw the development of a team representing the area to attend The Conservation Fund’s national training course Balancing Nature and Commerce in Rural Communities. In January of 2017, Huron Pines staff, Au Gres City Manager, Au Gres-Sims Superintendent, and the regional

coordinating director for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) traveled to the National Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia for a four-day intensive course. One of only five teams selected from across the country, learning opportunities covered economic development, community engagement, natural asset planning, and social enterprise strategies all designed to empower rural communities with strong natural resource amenities and access to build a better, more economically successful future. Our team left with a clearer understanding of our individual roles and responsibilities for moving our communities forward in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. Several opportunities were identified - one of which was bringing green infrastructure planning and resources to our communities.

In both the Tawas/East Tawas area and Rogers City, Huron Pines has been called upon to help these communities tackle the problems of invasive species, watershed quality, and general environmental improvements. Through community conversations these municipalities have recognized the expertise of Huron Pines staff to facilitate the recognition and assessment of environmental issues, as well as our ability to effectively and efficiently complete on-the-ground work. They have also recognized our commitment to engaging the community through volunteer opportunities and outreach so that all sections of the public are equally represented. These are the qualities that led Huron Pines to work with the residents and organizations of these communities to affect positive environmental change.

1.c.3

This project is, fundamentally, a way to make these communities sustainable, driven by change from within. The overall project plan, while guided by Huron Pines, was formed by community input, and these communal decision makers are the ones that will continue to drive the direction of the project. From our community conversations and visioning exercises with Rogers City, to our partnerships with non-traditional conservation organizations in Tawas, the input from residents and established organizations was, and is, vital to the design and success of this project.

Huron Pines staff are not always experts, but we are great liaisons for bringing certain experts into an area. We recognize that no one knows a community better than its denizens, and it is with this humility that we undertake our work. This idea permeates all of the projects we complete, so much so that we have recently bolstered our community engagement program. In the past few years, Huron Pines has worked to address and strengthen the conservation ethic in communities, and we weave that into all projects.

1.c.4

This project is part of a larger whole that Huron Pines has been working towards for the past few years. As mentioned, these communities are part of our service area, and our commitment to them will be as strong post-project as it is pre-project. This is about connecting seemingly disparate communities to a unified identity that they are lacking, and our intention is to plant the seeds of inter-community collaboration. Beyond the funding of this project we propose to help facilitate the peer-to-peer learning between coastal communities, and to strengthen the involvement of schools to foster the ethic of conservation in the next generations of these areas.

1.d) EJPCS Model

Some elements of the EJPCS Model have occurred, though the cities listed in the grant are at different stages in the process of the model. The intention is to guide the communities through every Element of the Model so they can serve as archetypes of cross-discipline, green infrastructure implementation.

For the Au Gres portion of the project, we estimate that the community is at Element 5 of the EJCPS Model. Through our work with them prior to this grant we have completed Elements 1-4. They are ready to formulate an actionable plan that will move them forward to Element 6 of the EJCPS Model, wherein they will physically implement the solutions decided upon in Element 5. The on-the-ground completion of the work will lead them to, arguably, the most important Element: 7. Au Gres will evaluate the process, reflect on lessons learned, and formulate a peer-to-peer sharing program in order to replicate the best practices established throughout the project. We expect this process to take 9-12 months.

Though Rogers City has begun the process and are technically near the end of Element 1, they would formally begin in the same Element, progressing to Element 2 with more natural asset workshops and community conversations. From there, Element 3 will involve deciding what priority problems to solve, and Element 4 will begin the process of exploring funding options for physical solutions and leveraging of partnerships. We estimate this process will take 12 months. From there, Rogers City will start the second year of the project at Element 5 and will follow the same path as Au Gres to complete Elements 5-7. We expect the second phase of this project to take 12 months.

Tawas and East Tawas, though in Element 2, will start the process formally revisiting Element 1 before moving into the capacity building and consensus building Elements of 2 and 3. For the sake of uniformity we intend to keep Tawas/East Tawas in step with Rogers City as much as possible, and believe the completion of all the Elements in the 2 year proposed project is feasible.

1.e) Project Linkages

Ultimately, this project is taking place under environmental statute 2, *Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)*. The project also addresses the current priorities of ‘ensuring clean and safe water by improving water infrastructure and supporting drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities’. It also approaches the priority of ‘increasing transparency, public participation, and collaboration with communities’. The project supports goals 1 and 2 of the EPA’s mission: ‘deliver real results to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water’, as well as ‘rebalance the power between Washington and the states to create tangible environmental results for the American people’. The work will also support the EPA’s funding priority concerning water infrastructure projects, while simultaneously addressing shared accountability and sustainability between communities, state and federal authorities, as well as Huron Pines.

The first objective of the proposed project is to identify and create broadly supported strategies for addressing knowledge gaps and raising awareness about green infrastructure and its importance for local natural resources and community vibrancy. Activities include gathering existing information to identify information gaps (e.g., maps of stormwater infrastructure, known problem areas, existing ordinances related to stormwater), and needed education opportunities for community leaders. Results of these activities will be to develop both a stormwater assessment and green infrastructure mapping protocol that include agreed upon implementation and funding schedules.

The second objective will be to overcome funding barriers by equipping the three communities with the background knowledge, technical capacity, and community support needed by the cities to prepare and submit future funding applications for a stormwater assessment and/or on-the-ground implementation of green infrastructure projects. Activities will include reviewing existing and identifying new funding opportunities and partnerships in conjunction with an assessment of local government readiness to apply to these sources. Along with the development of a 5-year funding work plan to ensure increased readiness, at least one funding application to a state grant opportunity will be undertaken and submitted as a result of this project.

The third objective is to overcome collaboration barriers, with Huron Pines engaging all sectors of the community to better understand opportunities for collaboration among local partners. We will also coordinate with the City of Au Gres to develop a program of peer-to-peer outreach. This outreach will include the city leading presentations to other interested communities at all levels of the planning process. The key actions for this work are to coordinate stakeholder meetings and workshops to identify shared goals and provide stormwater education. We anticipate connecting school districts with community leaders to create place-based education opportunities for youth.

By completing these objectives, the project will align with the EPA's priority of clean water by improving water quality and water infrastructure. It also puts the responsibility of water quality on the local communities, from visioning to funding, thereby creating a sense of regional ownership in juxtaposition to a sense of federal proprietorship. Compellingly, it also creates real results as the projects will be ground-up rather than top-down.

1.f) Partner and Collaborate

Work like this requires communities to be of the same mind when it comes to the input and outcomes of a project. Thus, we have officially and unofficially partnered with a number of stakeholders in Arenac, Iosco, and Presque Isle counties. Current partnerships include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Michigan DNR, road commissions, private landowners, local businesses, and school districts.

We also try to tie all of our work with water resources to Michigan's Water Strategy, which is a 30-year plan developed by the Office of the Great Lakes, to protect, enhance, and sustainably manage Michigan's globally unique water resources. Huron Pines' will guide these communities to implement the 9 action areas of the Strategy: inspire stewardship for clean water, protect and restore aquatic ecosystems, create vibrant waterfronts, support water-based recreation, promote water-based economies, ensure clean and safe waters, invest in water infrastructure, monitor water systems, and build governance tools.

Our official letters of support are from the City of Au Gres, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, and the city of Rogers City.

The Cities of Au Gres, Tawas, East Tawas, and Rogers City represent both the cities themselves and the concerned residents of the areas. The city leaders are the contact point for leveraging resources such as community meeting platforms, community input, and ultimately on-the-ground work to implement the projects. They will also be instrumental in leading the peer-to-peer process of replicating best practices. The Cities are invested in this project because they value the

environmental, economic, and social improvements this project will bring, as well as the collaboration with other coastal communities.

The Au-Gres Sims school district represents the concerns of education, specifically in the Au Gres area. Through our close relationship with the district and the superintendent, Au Gres-Sims will be influential in creating and disseminating the education piece of this project. By implementing successful place-based education strategies in the district, not only will this partnership create a deeper connection between the next generation and the local environment, but it will demonstrate that place-based education is a viable and teachable strategy for other schools.

We are also partnering with the Bay Area Community Foundation and the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. These partners represent the nonprofit community in the Northeast Michigan area, as well as all residents who use their direct and affiliated services. They are experts in nonprofit capacity building, and will help us not only place sustainable community structures, but help us leverage additional dollars to fund the physical projects for these communities. By being involved in this work, these partners will further their reach to provide community building services to a more connected Northeast Michigan.

Finally, we are partnering with the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network as another environmental partner with a vested interest in this work. They bring another perspective to the environmental planning and implementation side of the work we propose to do. By environmentally strengthening the communities around the bay, we lighten the burden of responsibility of the WIN.

Because we have prior, strong relationships with all of these partners, the cessation of this funding will not mean the ending of these partnerships. Because Huron Pines, and each partner, has a vested interest in the success of this project we will continue to advise and implement both community engagement and on-the-ground work well into the future.

2.0 Project Activities/Milestone Schedule

Project Activities

1. Activity #1: Implement programs to address the barrier of gaps in both knowledge and awareness of local officials for the importance of green infrastructure planning and projects in smart development and availability of necessary data to develop a comprehensive understanding of municipal stormwater threats to reduce pollutant loading to Lake Huron.
 - a. **Milestone:** Two meetings with community leaders of each municipality to provide education on water quality issues and identify issues for collaboration; **Timeline:** October 2018-October 2019
 - b. **Milestone:** Hold two natural assets workshops for Tawas/East Tawas. Workshop summary notes including a compilation of stakeholder feedback, Tawas and East Tawas natural assets and issues map, based on stakeholder input; **Timeline:** October 2018-October 2019
 - c. **Milestone:** Au Gres stormwater assessment completed and shared with city leaders; **Timeline:** October 2018-March 2019

- d. **Milestone:** Tawas and East Tawas stormwater assessment completed and shared with city leaders; **Timeline:** October 2019-March 2020
 - e. **Milestone:** Rogers City stormwater assessment completed and shared with city leaders; **Timeline:** March 2020-September 2020
- 2. Activity #2: Clearly identify, understand, and bolster readiness of local entities to capitalize on existing or new funding opportunities and partnerships to advance green infrastructure projects.
 - a. **Milestone:** One review of existing funding opportunities with municipal leaders of each city to understand readiness and needs for submitting applications; **Timeline:** October 2018-December 2018
 - b. **Milestone:** One application per city submitted to a state or local funding source; **Timeline:** September 2018-September 2020
 - c. **Milestone:** Development of non-grant incentives for municipalities to defray costs of water quality improvement efforts; **Timeline:** September 2018-September 2020
- 3. Activity #3: Facilitate opportunities for regional stakeholder discussion on the importance of green infrastructure to the greater Northern Saginaw Bay Region to identify common goals and needs and develop outreach tools that catalyze learning and collaboration.
 - a. **Milestone:** Presentation file and handouts developed by Au Gres community leaders, one press release and social media promotion; **Timeline:** March 2019
 - b. **Milestone:** One peer-to-peer learning event coordinated with Au Gres city leaders expounding on lessons learned and overall process to Tawas City and East Tawas; **Timeline:** April 2019
 - c. **Milestone:** One peer-to-peer learning event coordinated with Au Gres city leaders expounding on lessons learned and overall process to Rogers City; **Timeline:** May 2019
 - d. **Milestone:** Incorporate students into the green infrastructure planning process in the City of Au Gres, Tawas/East Tawas, and Rogers City; **Timeline:** April 2018-September 2020

4.0 Programmatic Capability

Huron Pines is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with a mission to *Protect the Great Lakes by conserving the forests, lakes, and streams of Northeast Michigan*. Our work is accomplished by coordinating large-scale restoration projects, providing conservation leadership, and integrating a conservation ethic into all sectors of our communities in Northeast Michigan.

Huron Pines' experience with facilitated community visioning, public input, project technical committee planning, development of nonprofit collaboration and capacity building workshops, and binational conservation partnerships gives us a strong communication, facilitation, and planning skill set. Huron Pines recently received a grant through the Healthy Waters Consortium to directly support intentional, focused engagement of a variety of stakeholders in advancing long-term conservation goals, large-scale land protection, river connectivity, and establishing a dedicated fund to sustain conservation work and investment. Through this grant philanthropic, recreation, land management, health and wellness, and township leadership audiences will be engaged in thinking about the connection between increased capacity for conservation of natural resources and community vibrancy. Huron Pines has already brought together a comprehensive cross-section of community stakeholders to accomplish combined natural resources conservation

and community vibrancy projects in the Au Gres area, including our Au Gres River Watershed project and Charity Islands Phragmites Management Partnership. Although a small community, the City of Au Gres is challenging its residents and decision makers to think long-term about what enhancing and protecting their quality of life and natural resources assets can mean for their collective future.

Huron Pines has also collaborated with several communities in Northeast Michigan over the past decade to improve stormwater management practices and install green and grey stormwater infrastructure. From 2005 to 2008 Huron Pines worked with the City of Grayling, MI to install 86 rain gardens and 7 mechanical oil & grit separator units. In the City of West Branch, Huron Pines hired an engineering firm to complete a stormwater assessment and design five rain gardens and a mechanical oil & grit separator - completed in 2013 and 2014. In 2015 we worked with the City of Rose City to develop a stormwater assessment that resulted in the installation of two rain gardens and a custom-designed oil & grit separator unit that now filters stormwater runoff from 113 acres of Rose City, representing over 90% of the commercial and residential areas of that community. Both West Branch and Rose City are part of the Northern Saginaw Bay Watershed. In each case, the local communities provided resources and remain involved with ongoing maintenance of installed Best Management Practices.

Huron Pines staff have extensive experience managing a diverse suite of successful community engagement and on-the-ground restoration projects including dam removal, road/stream crossing improvements, streambank stabilization, invasive species treatment, and stormwater Best Management Practices throughout Northeast Michigan. We have worked with the communities of Roscommon, Rogers City, West Branch, Grayling, and Rose City to complete stormwater assessments and have also managed significant on-the-ground stormwater projects in West Branch Grayling, and Rose City.

Abigail Ertel, Community Program Lead, will serve as the project manager and primary contact person for the proposed project. Abigail will work with the project team to identify, develop, and implement community outreach and engagement tasks related to the proposed scope of work. Abigail has been on the Huron Pines staff since 2010 and has managed large-scale watershed protection and restoration projects at both the technical project design and strategic community engagement levels. In addition to managing project tasks Abigail has guided the direction of the Huron Pines Community Engagement Program to support the Huron Pines 40 Year Strategic Vision, coordinated a nation-wide conservation partnership to increase capacity for long-term stewardship of rare species, and facilitates a variety of local and regional collaborative meetings, input sessions, and workshops.

Emily Vogelgesang, Environmental Education Coordinator, will provide support to the educators and students involved in the stormwater assessment and rain garden design. Prior to joining Huron Pines as Environmental Education Coordinator, Emily worked as an environmental consultant for roadway and aviation construction projects. As part of this work, she prepared NEPA level resource surveys, environmental assessments and permits. These documents included assessment of existing water resources and quality as well as construction impacts to the resources. She also reviewed design plans to ensure water quality protection and erosion

control measures were correct. She is a ESRI certified ArcGIS Desktop Associate and has experience with watershed modeling in this platform.

Josh Leisen, Watershed Project Manager, has been on the Huron Pines staff since 2013 and has managed dozens of river and habitat restoration projects and has authored several significant planning documents including the U.S. EPA CWA Section 319-approved Rifle River Watershed Management Plan (2015) and the formal Stormwater Assessment for the City of Rose City. Josh has managed on-the-ground stormwater projects including a custom-designed mechanical oil & grit separator unit in the City of Rose City and the installation of rain gardens in West Branch and Rose City. Josh will lead the development of the Au Gres Stormwater Assessment and will work with the Huron Pines team and external project partners to ensure the successful completion of the proposed work.

Brad Jensen, Executive Director, Huron Pines in 2001 and has served as its executive director since 2003. Brad's background in Conservation (B.S.), Environmental Education (M.S.), and experience in project management and staff supervision will aid the successful completion of this project. Mr. Jensen coordinated with the Huron Pines staff and Board of Directors to develop our organization's 40-year strategic vision, which places emphasis on community engagement and linking natural resources with economy and culture.

Administrative and clerical time will also be spent in the assistance of completing this project.

5.0 Past Performance

The following is a list of current and past federally funded assistance agreements that are similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project:

- 2012-2015 Northern Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative (NFWF - USFWS Agreement F12AC01416) - \$140,000
 - Funding to support a holistic conservation effort that aims to protect and restore water quality, enhance wildlife habitat and strengthen the communities of the Northern Saginaw Bay Watershed. The project includes river restoration, invasive species management, land stewardship and community engagement.
- 2016-2018 Au Gres Watershed Project (NFWF - USFWS Agreement F15AP00725) - \$235,000
 - Funding to replace and improve function, water quality and aquatic organism passage on five high quality stream in the Au Gres Watershed, improve conservation practices on agricultural lands through a combination of implementing on-the-ground restoration BMPs and engaging community stakeholders in guidance of project selection and future conservation planning.
- 2016-2020 Buhl Dam (USFS Challenge Cost Share Agreement 16-CS-11090400-046) - \$88,000
 - Funding to aid in the removal and replacement of a failing footbridge/dam structure over the South Branch of the Pine to provide safe access for community members and visitors to the Huron- Manistee National Forest. In addition to improving stream function, water quality and aquatic organism habitat this project ensured that the only access for local communities to national forest lands was

preserved and improved supporting economic potential and community connection to natural resources.

- 2017-2021 Healthy Watershed Consortium (EPA, NRCS, US Endowment for Forestry and Communities CFDA 66.441) - \$180,000
 - Funding to protect 10,000 acres of priority land and reconnecting 50 miles of high-quality trout stream in Northeast Michigan by 2021 through focused tasks that create understanding of community values and vision for natural resources and water quality protection, build people capacity and develop an innovative conservation funding structure

Huron Pines has successfully applied for, received and managed a wide variety of federal grants and assistance agreements achieving on-the-ground restoration, water quality protection and community capacity building goals. All grant proposals include elements of community outreach, engagement and input in addition to technical restoration elements and/or resource protection planning efforts. All of our projects are rooted in partnership and our process for project selection includes vetting by state, federal and local stakeholders so that our work is aligned with and balances the efforts at all levels. This process of regular input and feedback means we have little turnaround between receiving a grant award and implementing the proposed scope of work, leading to a strong track record of staying on track with progress and project completion.

Huron Pines has developed and implemented several tracking and project tools to ensure that we meet reporting requirements of all grant agreements regardless of funding source or entity. Project Managers develop, implement, evaluate and proactively adjust work plans specific to grant awards and project scopes of work. This tool allows Project Managers leading projects to track progress towards grant milestones and communicate with internal project teams and external partner networks efficiently. Upon receiving grant awards and signed contracts, reporting dates are logged in our organizational database which all staff have access and utilize regularly. This database provides reminders of reporting due dates and task deadlines each time staff log into the platform. Huron Pines conducts monthly financial and project tracking meetings to ensure strong fiscal responsibility of the organization and Project Managers. These monthly meetings are a platform for identifying challenges, hurdles and important conversations to have with grant program staff early. This process has been very important for those times when Huron Pines has had to extend a grant agreement of timeline based on an unforeseen hurdle or change in project scope. Our organization leadership meets regularly with agency directors, program and funding staff to understand program direction and priorities as well as maintain strong relationships between our respective organizations.

6.0 Quality Assurance Project Plan Information

We expect that our project will require the development of a QAPP.

Budget - Not responsive as per agreement with requester



3.0 Environmental Results: Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures

Output	Outcome
Two (2) Green Infrastructure syllabi developed and presented to local officials of Tawas/East Tawas and Rogers City to generate interest in green infrastructure learning opportunities	One (1) set of design standards/guidelines for green infrastructure practices developed
Four (4) Learning Days for Huron Pines staff to meet with local leaders of Tawas/East Tawas and Rogers City on topics directed by the syllabus to identify priorities, understand the current status and readiness, and develop strategies for supporting/implementing green infrastructure	Three (3) local/municipal entities (such as road commissions planning and zoning authorities, city/county commissioners) receiving information and training on green infrastructure per city
Three (3) Reviews of existing literature, ordinances, and studies to identify gaps in stormwater data in Tawas/East Tawas and Rogers City	One (1) stormwater assessment protocol, methodology with funding and implementation strategy developed and ready to implement. Existing education resources shared
Three (3) Reviews of existing GIS information to identify gaps in data for prioritizing green and grey infrastructure planning for Tawas/East Tawas and Rogers City	Three (3) Green Infrastructure mapping protocols, methodologies with funding and implementation strategies developed and ready to implement for Tawas/East Tawas and Rogers City. Existing educational resources shared
Four (4) reviews of existing funding opportunities with municipal leaders of Tawas/East Tawas, Rogers City, and Au Gres to understand readiness and needs for submitting applications	Four (4) five-year funding work plans for meeting green infrastructure partnership and planning gaps, as well as four (4) applications to statewide funding opportunities for implementation of stormwater assessments, green infrastructure projects, or natural asset mapping
Four (4) presentations by stakeholders (municipality/school district) to regional Community Foundation about green infrastructure and potential local project opportunities	Four (4) applications to Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council, or other youth service/education grant source, for scope of work related to education and youth involvement in green infrastructure implementation
Three (3) countywide professionally facilitated workshops for local leaders on the	One (1) case study document and three (3) corresponding presentations developed for

benefits and importance of strategic planning of natural resource and community	community leaders of Rogers City, Tawas/East Tawas, and Au Gres to share with other communities along Lake Huron
Six (6) meetings facilitated between city officials and school leadership to develop processes for integrating place-based education on green infrastructure into school curriculum and classrooms; two meetings each for Au Gres, Tawas/East Tawas, and Rogers City	Three (3) hands-on, related, green infrastructure “Community Day” events hosted and organized by school districts to generate interest and raise awareness by residents for the need and benefit of green infrastructure; one (1) Green Infrastructure plant list and planting schedule developed to lead cultivation of plants to align with scheduled municipal projects for Au Gres; Two (2) plans to involve school districts in cultivation of native plants in Rogers City and Tawas/East Tawas
One (1) presentation developed on successes and lessons learned to share with leadership from additional coastal communities	Three (3) regional communities reached through presentations
One (1) long-term, post-project, study completed reflecting number of beach closures, number of water-borne illnesses, water quality maintenance costs	Reduction in 5-year total beach closures, reduction in water-borne illness cases, and demonstrated reduction in cost of water quality maintenance post-project compared to 5-year period pre-project
One (1) post-project internal study to assess Huron Pines’ capability to address emerging water quality issues	One (1) meeting with regional environmental quality agencies to determine Huron Pines’ role in PFOS remediation

EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

Not responsive as per agreement with requester

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Not responsive as per agreement with requester



Resume - Not responsive as per agreement with requester


Resume - Not responsive as per agreement with requester





Letter of support - Not responsive as per agreement with requester

Letter of support - Not responsive as per agreement with requester





IRS

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 2508, Room 4010
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 4077550279
Jan. 22, 2013 LTR 4168C 0
38-2502172 000000 00
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Additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts: MI-001

Project Narrative File(s)

Not responsive as per agreement with requester



Other Attachment File(s)

Not responsive as per agreement with requester

